

PRESS RELEASE

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BRUNSON RECEIVES OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR RESEARCH/ACADEMIA FROM SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT (SRM)

Dr. Mark W. Brunson of Logan, Utah received an *Outstanding Achievement Award for Research/Academia* at the Society for Range Management's (SRM) 73rd Annual Meeting, Technical Training, and Trade Show in Denver, Colorado, February 16-20, 2020. The *Outstanding Achievement Award* is presented by the Society for Range Management for outstanding achievement to members and other qualified individuals and groups working with rangelands.

Mark Brunson decided early in his career that he was going to bring a social science perspective to the rangeland management profession because he believed we faced a crisis we didn't know how to confront – a crisis not in how to manage rangelands themselves but a crisis in the societal context in which we operate. He concluded that the profession didn't address this crisis well because it didn't follow the usual response to crisis. We weren't applying the scientific method because we hadn't embraced the social sciences to answer important questions.

Mark has conducted research on rangeland management and related topics such as invasive plants and recreational use of rangelands. He actively contributed to the interdisciplinary Sustainable Rangeland Roundtable and SageSTEP projects. He published his work in SRM and other respected publications. He helped us better understand the human dimension of rangeland management. He argued that we have to admit to the reality of other value systems; and acknowledge that they're part of the managerial landscape. He helped those of us steeped in the technical science understand that we might need to learn how the social sciences can help us do some important things such as listen to and communicate with people with different perspectives. He has demonstrated how social sciences can be used to improve rangeland management.

It is for these and other significant contributions to the profession of rangeland management that the Society for Range Management is proud to recognize Dr. Mark W. Brunson with a 2020 *Outstanding Achievement Award for Research/Academia*.



2020 SRM Outstanding Achievement Award for Research/Academia recipient Dr. Mark W. Brunson with SRM President (2019) Dr. Clayton Marlow.



MISSION: Providing leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles.

VISION: A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangelands users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems.